

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AF-10 ARA-10
CIAE-00 DODE-00 EA-10 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NASA-01 NEA-10 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OIC-02 SP-02 PA-01
PRS-01 OES-07 SS-15 USIA-06 /139 W
-----001351 252257Z /70

P 252041Z OCT 77
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2311
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 09181

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PARM, US, UR
SUBJECT: US-USSR CHEMICAL WEAPONS NEGOTIATIONS:
SIXTH ROUND, DRAFTING GROUP MEETING,
OCTOBER 24. CW MESSAGE NO. 28

1. CHEMICAL WEAPONS (CW) DRAFTING GROUP MET ON THE AFTER-
NOON OF OCTOBER 24. US SIDE PRBSENTED A REVISED TEXT
FOR ELEMENT NUMBER 19 (REVISED TEXT SENT SEPTTEL) IN
ORDER TO CLARIFY US APPROACH.
2. SOVIET MILITARY EXPERT (CHUGUNOV) RECALLED THAT AT THE
PREVIOUS MEETING THE US SIDE HAD STATED THAT IRRITANTS
SHOULD NOT BE INCLUDED IN THE PROHIBITION, AND NOTED
THAT SOME IRRITANTS ARE HIGHLY TOXIC AND SOME HAVE
SPECIFIC HARMFUL EFFECTS. HE STATED THAT, IF STATES
WHICH DO NOT PRODUCE IRRITANTS COULD BUY THEM FREELY,
IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR ANY STATE TO STOCKPILE IRRITANTS
IN QUANTITIES THAT COULD BE USED IN MILITARY CONFLICT.
CHUGUNOV ASKED IF THE US SIDE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE OR
DESIRABLE TO ESTABLISH A QUANTITATIVE LEVEL OF TOXICITY
FOR NON-LETHAL IRRITANTS. IN EFFECT, HE SAID, THIS
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CRITERION WOULD SERVE AS A THRESHOLD TO SEPARATE IRRITANTS
TO BE PROHIBITED FROM LESS TOXIC IRRITANTS WHICH WOULD BE
ALLOWED.

3. ALTERNATE HEAD OF US DEL (TURRENTINE) SAID THAT THIS
WAS AN INTERESTING THOUGHT AND THAT THE US SIDE WOULD
GIVE IT CAREFUL STUDY. HE STRESSED THAT THE US RESPONSE

MAY NOT BE FORTHCOMING IMMEDIATELY.

4. CHUGUNOV STATED HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US WOULD PERMIT TRAINING OF TROOPS TO USE THE MEANS OF PROTECTION AGAINST CHEMICAL ATTACK. HE ENQUIRED WHETHER THE US WOULD PUT SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IN A TREATY TO ALLOW FOR THIS.

5. US MILITARY EXPERT (LEONARD) RESPONDED THAT HE AGREED TROOP TRAINING IN CHEMICAL DEFENSE SHOULD BE ALLOWED AND COULD POSSIBLY BE INCLUDED IN THE TEXT OF A JOINT PAPER. TURRENTINE ADDED THE US SIDE DOES NOT BELIEVE IT NECESSARY TO SPECIFY SUCH USE IN THE TREATY ITSELF AND THAT SUCH USE WOULD BE COVERED BY THE PROVISION PERMITTING PROTECTIVE MEASURES. HE SAID THAT THE US SIDE BELIEVES THAT MASSIVE USE OF LIVE AGENTS WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED AND THAT THIS WOULD BE OUTLINED ALSO. HE STATED FURTHER THAT THOSE LINE AGENTS MUST BE PACKAGED AS STRICTLY TRAINING DEVICES IN SUCH A WAY THAT PRECLUDES THEIR USE AS COMBAT MUNITIONS.

6. US EXPERT (MIKULAK) RESPONDED TO SOVIET QUESTION FROM PREVIOUS MEETING OF THE DRAFTING GROUP, IN WHICH THE SOVIET SIDE ASKED IF ONE MAY UNDERTAKE ANY KIND OF CHEMICAL PRODUCTION IN A BUILDING WHICH PREVIOUSLY HOUSED CW FACILITIES, IN PARTICULAR IF THE NEW PRODUCTION DOES NOT LEAVE ANY DOUBT THAT THE PRODUCTION OF CHEMICAL

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AGENTS IS RULED OUT. RESPONSE WAS THAT THE US SIDE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT CHEMICAL PRODUCTION OF ANY TYPE SHOULD BE ALLOWED IN SUCH FACILITIES BECAUSE OF THE VERIFICATION PROBLEMS WHICH WOULD RESULT. HE SAID THAT NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS SHOULD BE ADEQUATE FOR CONFIRMING THAT A DECLARED FACILITY HAS BEEN DESTROYED. HOWEVER, THE US SIDE DOES NOT BELIEVE THAT NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO CONFIRM THAT PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES ARE NOT BEING CARRIED OUT IN A FORMER PRODUCTION FACILITY WHICH HAS OSTENSIBLY BEEN COVERTED TO PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THE US SIDE BELIEVES THERE IS A COMMON UNDERSTANDING THAT, ONCE A DECLARED FACILITY HAS BEEN DISMANTLED, NO ACTIVITY SHOULD BE ALLOWED AT THE SAME SITE WHICH WOULD CAUSE THE SLIGHTEST SUSPICION. HE SAID THAT HE COULD NOT SEE HOW ADEQUATE CONFIDENCE IN COMPLIANCE COULD BE OBTAINED WITHOUT ON-SITE INSPECTION IF USE OF THE BUILDING FOR OTHER PURPOSES WERE ALLOWED.

7. THE TWO SIDES AGREED THAT THE DRAFTING GROUP WOULD START WORK ON COMMON LANGUAGE OF THE JOINT INITIATIVE AT ITS NEXT MEETING ON THE AFTERNOON OF OCTOBER 25. THE DRAFTING GROUP WILL BEGIN WITH THOSE PROVISIONS WHERE THE

POSITIONS OF THE TWO SIDES DO NOT DIFFER APPRECIABLY.
THE TWO SIDES AGREED TO CONSIDER US ELEMENT NUMBER 16
ON VERIFICATION (STATE TAKE INTERNAL MEASURES NECESSARY
TO ENSURE THAT THE PROVISIONS OF THE CONVENTION ARE
OBSERVED) AND US ELEMENT NUMBER 8 ON SCOPE (PROHIBITION
OF TRANSFER TO OTHERS OF MEANS OF CHEMICAL WARFARE). VANDEN
HEUVEL

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Message Attributes

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